

than 7 days prior to the appointed hearing date, an affidavit or affidavits setting out the evidence relating to exempt documents.

A D M I N I S T R A T I V E L A W W A T C H

SSAT Uniform Procedures

The ARC's Report No. 21, The Structure and Form of Social Security Appeals, stressed the need for uniform procedures to be adopted by Social Security Appeals Tribunals ('SSATs') to minimise the possibility of different standards applying from one tribunal to another. Uniform procedures have since been drafted by a Committee of SSAT members and endorsed by the Minister for Social Security. The procedures were promulgated in April 1985 under the title Procedures of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

The stated objective of the procedures is to achieve a satisfactory balance between the establishment of an informal atmosphere at appeal hearings on the one hand, and formalising practices and procedures of the tribunals on the other hand.

This development is consistent with the ARC's conception of how the first level review body in a two tier review system should operate. The first tier of review in such cases should provide economical, expeditious and informal review, whereas the final level of review on the merits must determine individual cases upon an inquiry of greater depth, and also develop principles of general application for the guidance of primary decision makers and the first review body.

R E C E N T P U B L I C A T I O N S

The following recent works relating to administrative law may be of interest:

Abrams, Floyd

'Freedom of Information and the Law' in the Granada Guildhall Lectures 1984, The Right to Know, Granada Publishing Ltd, 1985